

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03588 100707Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05
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R 091418Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4195
INFO USMISSION NATO
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USIA WASHDC

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FOR: EUR/NE

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, NO
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR W. TAPLEY BENNETT'S OSLO PROGRAM

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PAGE 02 OSLO 03588 100707Z

1. U.S. AMBASSADOR TO NATO W. TAPLEY BENNETT WAS PROGRAMMED IN TWO SEPARATE SESSIONS AT AMEMBASSY OSLO ON AUGUST 8. PROGRAMS PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH MORE THAN 40 INFLUENTIAL NORWEGIANS AND RE-ITERATED AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR NATO.

2. MORNING SESSION WAS 1-1/2 HOUR SEMINAR IN EM-

BASSY CONFERENCE ROOM ON THEME "CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND NATO" ATTENDED BY 18 REPRESENTATIVES DRAWN MAINLY FROM MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE AND LEADERSHIP OF NORWEGIAN POLITICAL PARTIES. AMBASSADOR SPOKE FOR APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES AND EXPLAINED IN GENERAL TERMS THE FOREIGN POLICY THINKING OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO NATO, AND THEN RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS. IN HIS PRESENTATION AND RESPONSE AMB BENNETT DREW LARGELY ON PRESIDENT'S NOTRE DAME AND NATO MINISTERIAL SPEECHES, WHICH WERE ALSO DISTRIBUTED, AMONG OTHER MATERIALS, TO PARTICIPANTS. AMONG ISSUES RAISED DURING THE DISCUSSION WERE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES OF THE ADMINISTRATION, INCREASED AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR NATO, U.S. VIEW TOWARD EUROCOMMUNISM, AND FRENCH COMMENTS ON EAST-WEST TENSIONS. AMB BENNETT WAS FORCEFUL AND ARTICULATE IN HIS HANDLING OF ALL ISSUES AND SERVED TO REINFORCE THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO NATO IN THE WAKE OF EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLE. IRONICALLY, SUBJECT OF ARTICLE ITSELF WAS NOT RAISED DURING SEMINAR ALTHOUGH ARTICLE HAD APPEARED OBLIQUELY IN OSLO PRESS. FOLLOWING SEMINAR, DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY CHARGE.

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PAGE 03 OSLO 03588 100707Z

3. FOLLOWING LUNCHEON AMB BENNETT, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE, CALLED ON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRYDENLUND AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS.

4. AMB BENNETT GAVE OFF THE RECORD PRESS BACKGROUND FOR 24 INVITED JOURNALISTS FROM OSLO PRESS AND SEVERAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION OFFICERS FROM KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICES. THIS WAS UNUSUALLY LARGE TURNOUT AS POST NORMALLY EXPECTS 8-10 JOURNALISTS FOR SUCH BRIEFINGS. AMBASSADOR COVERED ESSENTIALLY SAME GROUND AS IN SEMINAR BUT IN ABBREVIATED FORM DURING THE LIVELY AND INFORMAL Q & A SESSION. THIS INTERCHANGE WAS MORE SPIRITED THAN MORNING SESSION AND PRODUCED, IN ADDITION TO SUBJECTS RAISED IN SEMINAR, QUESTIONS ON AMERICAN POSITION WITH REGARD TO "GREY ZONE" BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND SVALBARD, AMERICAN

ABILITY TO RESPOND TO CONVENTIONAL ATTACK, NATO-WARSAW PACT FORCE LEVELS, SOUTHERN AFRICA, VIEW OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WITHIN NATO, AND OTHERS. SUBJECT OF EVANS/NOVAK ARTICLE WAS RAISED

AND QUICKLY (AND FROM A NORWEGIAN POINT OF VIEW
- SATISFACTORILY) DISPOSED OF BY AMB BENNETT
BY DRAWING UPON FURNISHED GUIDANCE. HE ALSO
MENTIONED ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTION TO INCREASE
SUPPORT FOR NATO BY HALF BILLION DOLLARS AND TO
ADD TWO ADDITIONAL BRIGADES OF AMERICAN TROOPS
AS CONCRETE INDICATIONS OF PRESIDENT'S INCREASED
EMPHASIS ON AND COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE.

5. GENERATING AND MAINTAINING NORWEGIAN SUPPORT
FOR NATO IS THE MAJOR POLICY OBJECTIVE OF THIS
EMBASSY. AMB BENNETT'S VISIT GAVE US A UNIQUE
AND USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUR MESSAGE ACROSS
TO KEY OPINION LEADERS IN A BROAD CROSS SECTION
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PAGE 04 OSLO 03588 100707Z

OF NORWEGIAN SOCIETY.

6. WE HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE PAST
IN PROGRAMMING VISITORS FROM NATO AND AMB BENNETT'S
VISIT REINFORCES WHAT THEY AND OUR HIGHLY EFFEC-
TIVE NATO TOURS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

7. AMB DEPARTS OSLO TODAY ACCOMPANIED BY EMB
ESCORT OFFICER FOR FIVE DAYS OF VISITS TO NORWE-
GIAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING BODO AND
BARDUFOSS AIR STATIONS, OLAVSVERN NAVAL BASE AND
SOUTH VARANGER GARRISON.
BREMER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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